

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 JUSE-00 TRSE-00 MCT-01 SY-05
USSS-00 CPR-01 FBIE-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /085 W
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R 291947Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7339
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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DEPT PASS JUSTICE AND TREASURY FOR ASST SECRETARY
FOR ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PROG ASEC XF EG
SUBJECT: ANTI-EGYPTIAN ACTIVITIES OF JEWISH
- COMMITTEE OF CONCERN

REF: USUN 1127

1. TODAY'S CAIRO DAILIES HAVE BANNER HEADLINES ON
ACTIVITIES OF JEWISH COMMITTEE OF CONCERN (REFTEL) WITH
ACCOMPANYING STORIES. COMMITTEE NAME ALTERED TO READ
"JEWISH FOLLOW-UP (MUTABA'A) COMMITTEE." HEADLINES AND
STORIES DESCRIBE COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES AS "TERRORIST
CAMPAIGN" AGAINST EGYPT. TEXT FROM JEWISH COMMITTEE
PRESS RELEASE QUOTED IN AHRAH STORY.

2. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE HAD PREVIOUS INDICATIONS OF SUCH
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HARASSMENT OF EGYPTIAN DIPLOMATS, THESE HAVE THUS FAR
BEEN ISOLATED INCIDENTS WHICH HAVE NOT ATTRACTED MUCH
ATTENTION LOCALLY. FRONT PAGE PRESS REPORTAGE WILL
INEVITABLY RESULT IN WIDESPREAD KNOWLEDGE ON THE PART
OF EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS AND PUBLIC THAT SUCH HARASSMENT
IS TAKING PLACE. WE EXPECT TO BE QUERIED ABOUT THEM
AND ABOUT WHAT USG IS DOING TO PROTECT EGYPTIAN DIPLOMATS.

UNLESS EFFECTIVE WAYS ARE QUICKLY FOUND TO STOP SUCH HARASSMENT, ITS CONTINUATION COULD PROVOKE STRONG RESPONSE HERE. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE IF AN EGYPTIAN IS HURT OR KILLED IN ONE OR ANOTHER OF IRRESPONSIBLE FIRE BOMBINGS THAT COMMITTEE IS CARRYING OUT. EGYPTIAN U.N. EMPLOYEE BAHGAT AL-TAWIL WAS RECENTLY ON LEAVE IN EGYPT AND RELATED ACCOUNT OF WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS HOME IN HIS ABSENCE. JUDGING FROM HIS ACCOUNT, HIS DAUGHTER, WHO WAS IN THE HOUSE AT THE TIME FIRE BOMBING TOOK PLACE, ESCAPED WITHOUT BEING HURT OR EVEN KILLED ONLY BECAUSE SHE WAS AWAKENED IN TIME.

3. IF JEWISH COMMITTEE'S HARASSMENT CONTINUES, WE CANNOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT EXTREMISTS WILL BE EMBOLDENED TO ATTEMPT HARASSMENT OF AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN CAIRO. GOE HAS DONE ITS UTMOST TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE POLICE PROTECTION TO AMERICAN PERSONNEL (E.G., ALL SENIOR OFFICERS HAVE TWENTY-FOUR HOUR GUARD ON THEIR RESIDENCE). WHILE REALIZING (TO SOME EXTENT) THAT OUR POLICE STRUCTURES ARE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE IN EXISTENCE HERE, GOE WILL EXPECT THAT EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL PERSONNEL IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON BE GIVEN EQUALLY EFFECTIVE PROTECTION.

4. WE ASSUME DEPT AND USUN ALREADY WORKING ON COUNTER MEASURES, BUT THOUGHT OCCURS TO US THAT SEVERAL THINGS " MIGHT BE DONE WHICH COULD HAVE SOME DETERRENT EFFECT ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMITTEE MILITANTS AND WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE POSITIVE IMPACT HERE. SPECIFICALLY:

- (A) DEPT MIGHT CONSIDER ISSUING STRONG CONDEMNATORY STATEMENT OF UNJUSTIFIED HARASSMENT OF EGYPTIAN DIPLOMATS.
- (B) HOPEFULLY, SOME EFFECTIVE POLICE AND LEGAL ACTION CAN BE TAKEN AGAINST COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO PERPETRATE SUCH HARASSMENT (WHICH, CONTRARY TO IMPLICATION PARA 5 REFTEL, HAS ALREADY IN FACT BEGUN).
- (C) PERHAPS RESPONSIBLE JEWISH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS COULD BE PREVAILED UPON TO ISSUE STRONG CONDEMNATORY STATEMENTS, POINTING OUT THAT COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES ARE HARMFUL TO PEACE PROCESS. EILTS

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